

*AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS*

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method of determining the orientation of an image comprising:
  - determining, via a computer for processing a digital representation of said image, the orientation from direction and magnitude of normal vectors associated with local curvature in a set of points associated with [[a]] the digital representation of said image by[[:]];
  - performing a first and second derivative vector computation for one or more pixels of said digital representation;
  - quantizing a direction and magnitude of the computed first and second derivative vectors;
  - weighted voting the quantized first and second derivative directions into analyzing coordinate system orientations to determine a maximum vote; and
  - selecting the image orientation having the maximum vote.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said image is represented by a digital edge representation.
4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said image is a thoracic image, the method further comprising determining curvature of at least one of ribs and ribcage in said thoracic image.
5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said image is a mammographic image and wherein a curvature is calculated for skin border edge segments of said image.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein collimation areas are excluded from said digital representation.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein direct exposure areas are excluded from said digital representation.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 further comprising orienting the image represented by the digital representation into a desired orientation by subjecting said image to an orientation modifying geometric transformation to yield said desired orientation of the image.

Claims 10-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable program code for carrying out the steps of claim 1.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said orientation is deduced from an addition vector of said normal vectors.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said image is represented by an iso-intensity representation.

17. (Withdrawn) A method of determining the orientation of an image wherein said image is represented by an edge representation comprising fitting a circle segment to data of said edge representation and determining said orientation as a direction of a midpoint of the fitted circle segment toward a circle center.

Claims 18-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 17 wherein said image is a thoracic image, the method further comprising determining curvature of at least one of ribs and ribcage in said thoracic image.

21. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 17 wherein said image is a mammographic image and wherein said curvature is calculated for skin border edge segments of said image.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said direction and magnitude of the computed first and second derivative vectors are quantized according to four Cartesian plane quadrants.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said direction and magnitude of the computed first and second derivative vectors are quantized according to eight Cartesian space octants.

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.